



REPORT ON THE JURY'S WORK

The international Jury of the “Art in the Hills - artists in residency. Villaga” art festival has completed its work on the examination and evaluation of the projects, and selected 25 (24 + 1 in reserve) among the almost 70 artistic proposals sent within the timeframe given for the submissions, on January 31, 2021.

Initially, each juror analysed the material in detail, independently. After a thorough research and study of the received proposals, the members were asked to share their personal considerations with the rest of the jury, through a number of videoconferences which became an opportunity to debate the proposals during rather fruitful engagements.

The analysis work lasted about two weeks. Every member of the jury took a significantly long enough period of time to guarantee a careful evaluation of the large amount of material received, to analyse the artistic history of each candidate, their education and creative and exhibiting activity. When necessary, especially where the applications were incomplete or lacking, the jury in its whole has conducted a thorough research online, with the aim of having a complete picture of the personality and seriousness of the considered artists.

We have carefully analysed the proposed motivations and reflections with a particular focus on the call's themes, on sustainabilities of every kind, and the specific characteristics of the area of the Colli Berici, where the future “open air Museum” will develop. Of several projects we appreciated the gentleness and the respect for nature and the environment, and the poetic statements which inspired the artists, their creative sketches, the renderings to visualise the works in context.

The entire aforementioned preliminary work allowed us in the second session, through several hours of discussion and evaluation, to work on a common ground; we proceeded in harmony and alignment, hardly a predictable situation, which surprised us as well.

We immediately realised the variety of the proposed themes, of the approaches and proposed materials, and some “surprises” were notably astounding, both in their forms and contents, often highly original. Some shared criteria guided our reflection, namely: the juxtaposition of age and experience, the consideration of artistic variety, the wealth of different backgrounds, the use of materials and languages, but mostly the criterion of quality of the proposals. In most cases we have found ourselves immediately in agreement and, by common accord, we have agreed on the quality, originality, and novelty of the proposals, but also, and this was not by any means insubstantial, also on the solidity of the experience previously demonstrated by the artists, whether in previous occasions or works. We imagined, with the roster of selected artists, “mixed” residencies, composed on the basis of a principle of balance between well-established artists with other, younger ones, to reinforce the dialogue, create an energy and an exchange fundamental to every artistic practice.

This way, the conditions for that osmosis of ideational freshness and intuition, artistic research and concrete realisation ability would be met, a characteristic of the creative process of young people's work that is something truly worth encouraging. We identified in some artists (even those of different ages), some similarities in their approach to research, in their area of intervention, their search for comparisons between the local cultural traditions and their morphological research on the territory.

What was shared among every artist was the common interest, the will and the necessity to walk, investigate, explore, know, collect and engage in dialogue with the nature and landscape of the Colli

Berici, but also, as much as possible, with its population. Some artists even suggested a fruitful exchange with the local community during the residency period.

The research, experimentation and discovery represent, for the majority of the artists and professionals that we selected, the designing steps of a work that is already vital.

The jury proposes to concentrate the production of the works that are characterised by a strong performative component (Cavazzana&Goldoni, Sartori, Zwaans, Wang and Abendroth) towards the end of the residency period so as to give the possibility to the artists-performers to spend their residency before the inauguration, in order to allow the public to enjoy their performances during the inauguration or pre-inauguration. We are also convinced that an initiative such as this cannot do without, as is in the “best traditions fo Land art and some of the other historical movements”, documentation, by photographs or video by the authors, of the events of the residencies, the progression of the works in situ, and – first and foremost – the inaugural performances.

Thanks to the vast professional experience and technical and material-related know-how of the involved jurors, we hypothesised constructive solutions more suitable in regards to the artistic thoughts, while in other cases we have thought about alternative materials to be utilised, to guarantee that some works would have a better protection from the elements and the passing of time. The jurors have declared themselves available to offer specific curatorial advice, contacts of people and/or professionals for the production of the works, other than the eventual sponsorship of materials (hypothesis to be evaluated).

Lastly, one should remember that some projects did not indeed qualify, while nonetheless having aroused our interest from the beginning. Some of these proposals have not been chosen due to the impossibility of their concrete realisation. However, it is the jury’s desire to honour such projects by giving them a special mention in print and the catalogue of the festival.

These projects are that of **Marco Emmanuele**, who proposed one of his delicate and touching “Drawing machines”, truly too delicate a work for the exterior spaces of A.i.t.H., but that will be placed, at the same time of the festival, in a small exhibition space in the Vicenza area; the project of young Roman artist **Davide Miceli**, who with his “Forma della Fatica”, a work as simple as sharp and talented, proposed an idea which seduced us, yet unfortunately was incompatible with our security norms. Finally, the project by Estonian artist **Uku Sepsivart** which, due to the current situation in Estonia because of the Coronavirus pandemic, gave up on his beautiful idea of an eco-sustainable trip from Estonia to the Colli Berici via a number of different instruments.

Selected artists:

1. **Maria Vittoria Cavazzana & Matteo Goldoni**, ITA (Venice/Modena), 27, 29
2. **Xuanlin Wang**, TWN/BEL (Antwerp), 26
3. **Davide Ronco**, ITA/DNK (Copenhagen), 27
4. **Mariateresa Sartori**, ITA (Venezia), 59
5. **Felix Kiessling**, GER (Berlin), 41
6. **Noemi Priolo**, ITA/GBR (London), 30
7. **Stefania Spanu**, ITA (Sorso, SS), 41
8. **Marcela Cernadas**, ARG/ESP (Sevilla), 53
9. **Alexander von Holtum**, GER (Mainz), 25
10. **Samantha Passaniti**, ITA (Porto S. Stefano, GR), 39
11. **Sara Spatolisano**, ITA (Venezia-Mestre), 19
12. **Eléna Nemkova**, RUS/ITA (Milano), 46
13. **Sebastiano Mortellaro**, ITA (Siracusa/Torino), 46
14. **Gokce Gerekli Yilmaz**, TUR/GBR (Oxford), 37
15. **Lorenzo Ramos**, ITA (Milano), 26

16. **Reda Berrada**, MAR/CAN/CHE (Lausanne), 27
17. **Oscar Dominguez**, ARG/ITA (Faenza), 50
18. **Philip Topolovac**, GER (Berlin), 42
19. **Giammarco Cugusi**, ITA (Milano), 29
20. **Marjet Zwaans**, NLD (Amsterdam), 32
21. **Luca Zanta**, ITA (Padova), 47
22. **Laura Santini**, ITA (Bergamo), 27
23. **Saad Fenaoui**, MAR (Casablanca), 27
24. **Ryszard Litwiniuk**, POL (Warszawa), 55
25. **Johannes Abendroth**, GER (Berlin), 37

International Jury

Agnes Kohlmeyer, President, GER/ITA (Venezia)

Liz Bachhuber, USA/GER (Weimar/Berlin)

Mauro Perosin, ITA (Asolo, TV)

Nuvola Ravera, ITA (Genova)

Dan Harvey, GBR (London/Zuel di Qua, TV)

February 21, 2021

Director

Massimo Casagrande



Via Fagnini s/n-Altavia dei Berici-Sentiero 72
Villaga (VI)
artenaturavillaga@gmail.com
www.artenaturavillaga.it